



Grand Valley Metro Council Regional Planning Facilitation

HFA provided workshop facilitation and technical assistance to the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council (GVMC), an alliance of governmental units in the Grand Rapids, Michigan metropolitan area, for a series of workshops for seven sub-regional alliances. A total of 32 municipalities came together, within logical or implicit groups based upon a unique role or place in the metropolitan landscape, to develop visions for the future of the area. The workshops identified “livable areas” in these sub regions and highlighted broad planning techniques to address the unique regional qualities of each area.

HFA prepared and presented educational materials about the concepts and applications of “transect planning”, a form of planning that seeks to create a series of immersive zones ranging in character from rural to urban.

HFA also worked with GVMC to develop the workshop design, and facilitated the working sessions. During each workshop, participants played a “Growth Management Game” using regional maps and development type chips. The game highlighted trade-offs between different types of development and helped participants see the differences between the status quo development scenario and their preferred future.

Client:

Grand Valley Metropolitan
Council (GVMC)

Location:

Grand Rapids, MI

HFA Services Provided:

public involvement
stakeholder facilitation
meeting management
visioning
workshop facilitation
event planning
urban design education
chip game
transect planning

